

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**HIGH SPEED RAIL STUDY SET TO BEGIN**

***LOOKING AT FEASIBILITY OF SERVICE BETWEEN BOSTON  
AND MONTREAL THROUGH NEW HAMPSHIRE AND VERMONT***

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces it is joining with transportation agencies in Vermont and Massachusetts in a study of the feasibility of implementing High Speed Rail Service between Boston and Montreal.

Phase 1 of the two-part study is expected to be completed by September 2002. In addition to assessing potential riders, Phase 1 of the will identify issues associated with this passenger rail concept, including integrating the freight option.

The consulting firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas, of Manchester, New Hampshire will provide engineering services for the federally funded study, which will include public meetings for information and comments.

Last year the Federal Railroad Administration designated the Boston to Montreal Route as one of the nation's three new High Speed Rail Corridors. The principal objectives of High Speed Rail service are to reduce congestion associated with highway and air travel and provide an alternative means of travel. In the Boston to Montreal corridor, alternative passenger rail service could reduce growing traffic volumes along Interstate 93, U.S. Route 3, and Interstate 89.

The 325-mile proposed High Speed Rail Corridor travels along existing rail rights-of-way from Boston. In New Hampshire it runs from Nashua through Manchester and Concord, then turns northwesterly to West Lebanon. It crosses the Connecticut River into Vermont at White River Junction and travels to Montpelier, Burlington and St. Albans, Vermont before linking with the Canadian National Railroad at Alburg, Vermont. From Alburg, the line travels the final 65 miles to Central Station in Montreal, Quebec.